

TRIP REPORT FROM NOVEMBER 3 THROUGH NOVEMBER 20

25X1A Areas visited were Hycon, Detachment [REDACTED]

1. My visit to Hycon was concerned with the problem of installing a 35 mm Tracker in the Bay with the "H" Camera. It appears that the Tracker in it's present configuration will not fit, but since there is a distance of approximately 4" from the bottom of the "H" configuration to the hatch, it would be possible to make a re-designed version that would fit in this area. This could be done by merely re-locating components and re-designing the housing rather than any reconstruction of components. I would like to obtain some layouts which the vehicle people have in their possession confirming the available space in which to do this. [REDACTED] indicated that these layouts could be obtained through headquarters only.

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2. [REDACTED] in so far as Tracker, Driftsight, and Sextant maintenance and operation were concerned, appeared to be going quite well with the exception of the perennial sextant problems concerning the bubble size. It is my understanding, however, that this problem has been licked through the use of a new thermostat which has better stablization for proper bubble size.

An informative discussion with the new manager indicates that our efforts are acceptable.

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A replacement will be sent to Detachment [REDACTED] whose contract expires in June and will not be renewed.

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3. [REDACTED] - The conditions at the Detachment were good in so far as living and eating conditions were concerned. The working conditions were very bad and not at all conducive to the reliability of operation required on this program. I was informed that new working areas were being laid out and action was being taken.

The frequency of operation for the past month are such that we are hard-pressed to fulfill our obligations, which require loading and pre-flight at least 3 hours in advance of take-off, purging at take-off, and down-loading, after the mission, plus Tracker pre-flight and preparation for the next day's operation if a sortie is scheduled. This means an 18 to 20-hour day for a single man; and if the schedule is prolonged, we should provide two men to the Detachment.

4. Everyone is anxious to see our new Trackers and get them in operation. Everyone is also anxious to know the status of the Mark I's once this event occurs.

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